

Decision D.01-06.028 June 14,2001

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Application of the Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority for an order authorizing construction of a pedestrian crossing at Moffett Park Station Nos. 210.44.5 and 210.44.75 by the light rail transit line of the Tasman West Light Rail Project in the City of Sunnyvale, County of Santa Clara.

Application 00-08-021
(Filed August 18, 2000)

OPINION

Summary

Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority (VTA) requests authority to construct two at-grade pedestrian crossings at the new Moffett Park Station by the light rail transit line of the Tasman West Light Rail Project in the City of Sunnyvale, Santa Clara County. The crossings are to be located at each end of the Moffett Park Station; they will cross the two light rail transit (LRT) tracks between the two side platforms and provide passenger access to the Station.

Discussion

Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority (VTA) was created as a County department by the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors on June 6, 1972 to oversee the region's transportation system. VTA's primary responsibility since its creation has been the development, operation and maintenance of the bus and light rail system within the County. VTA separated from the County of Santa Clara and merged with the region's Congestion Management Agency in January 1995; it thereby gained the additional responsibility of managing the County's blueprint to reduce congestion and improve air quality.

The Moffett Park Station is a new station along the VTA's Tasman West alignment, adjacent to the Moffett Park Project. The Tasman West alignment is part of the Tasman Corridor Project which is about 12 miles long, between Mountain View and East San Jose.

The Moffett Park Station will provide light rail transit service to Moffett Park Project tenants. The Moffett Park Project will include four commercial office buildings and an on-site fitness center, for a total of 651,600 square feet of space. Motor vehicle access to the Project will be via two driveways from 11th Avenue and a single driveway from Lockheed Martin Way.

City of Sunnyvale is the lead agency for this project under the California Environmental Quality Act of 1970 (CEQA), as amended, Public Resources (PR) Code Sections 21000, et seq. The City adopted a Negative Declaration on March 20, 2001 for this project, which determined that there are sufficient environmental controls incorporated into the zoning regulations to ensure no significant detrimental effect on the environment. On March 29, 2001 a Notice of Determination was filed with the Santa Clara County Clerk Office, which found that "the project will not have a significant effect on the environment."

The Commission is a responsible agency for this project under CEQA, and has reviewed and considered the lead agency's environmental documentation. The site of the proposed project has been inspected by the Commission's Rail Safety and Carrier Division — Rail Crossings Engineering Section staff. Staff examined the need to construct the proposed crossing, as indicated in the Exhibits attached to the application, and recommends that the application be approved.

The application is in compliance with the Commission's filing requirements, including Rules 38 to 41 of the Rules of Practice and Procedure.

A site map of the grade crossing is as shown on plans attached to the application as Appendix A.

In Resolution ALJ 176-3046, dated September 7, 2000 and published on the Commission Daily Calendar on September 8, 2000, the Commission preliminarily categorized this application as ratesetting, and preliminarily determined that hearings were not necessary. Since no protest were filed and no hearings were held, this preliminary determination remains accurate. The Commission's Rail Safety and Carriers Division recommends that this application be granted. Given these developments a public hearing is not necessary, and it is not necessary to disturb the preliminary determinations made in Resolution ALJ 176-3046.

This is an uncontested matter in which the decision grants the relief requested. Accordingly, pursuant to Public Utilities Code Section 311 (g) (2), the otherwise applicable 30-day period for public review and comment is being waived.

Findings of Fact

1. Notice of the application was published first in the Commission Daily Calendar on August 22, 2000. Due to a clerical error, the application was re-published on the Commission Daily Calendar on September 12, 2000. There are no unresolved matters or protests; a public hearing is not necessary.

2. Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority (VTA) requests authority to construct two at-grade pedestrian crossings at the new Moffett Park Station by the light rail transit line of the Tasman West Light Rail Project in City of Sunnyvale, Santa Clara County. The crossings are to be located at each end of the Moffett Park Station, and will cross the two light rail transit (LRT) tracks between the two side platforms and provide passenger access to the Station.

3. Construction of the proposed project is an essential element in the construction of the Tasman Corridor Light Rail Extension Project.

4. Public convenience and necessity require the construction of the pedestrian grade crossings.

5. Public safety requires that access to each crossing be protected by manual swing gates, which require pedestrians to actively pull the gates open before crossing the tracks. In addition, Standard No. 8 Crossing Flashing Light Signals (General Order (GO) 75-C) are to be installed between the tracks, pointing in both directions, along with Look Both Ways warning signs.

6. City of Sunnyvale is the lead agency for this project under the California Environmental Quality Act of 1970 (CEQA), as amended.

7. The Commission is a responsible agency for this project, and has reviewed and considered the lead agency's Negative Declaration and Notice of Determination.

Conclusion of Law

The application should be granted as set forth in the following order.

O R D E R

IT IS ORDERED that:

1. Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority (VTA) is authorized to construct two at-grade pedestrian crossings at the new Moffett Park Station by the light rail transit line of the Tasman West Light Rail Project in the City of Sunnyvale, Santa Clara County. The crossings are to be located at each end of the Moffett Park Station, and are to be identified as follows: West end of station Crossing 210-44.50-D, East end of station Crossing 210-44.75-D.

2. Clearances and walkways shall be in accordance with General Order (GO) 143-B.

3. Construction and maintenance costs shall be borne in accordance with an agreement which has been entered into between the parties. A copy of the agreement shall be filed with the Commission prior to starting construction.

4. Within 30 days after completion of the work under this order, VTA shall notify the Commission in writing that the authorized work was completed.

5. This authorization shall expire if not exercised within two years unless time is extended or if the above conditions are not complied with. Authorization may be revoked or modified if public convenience, necessity, or safety so require. The application is granted as set forth above.

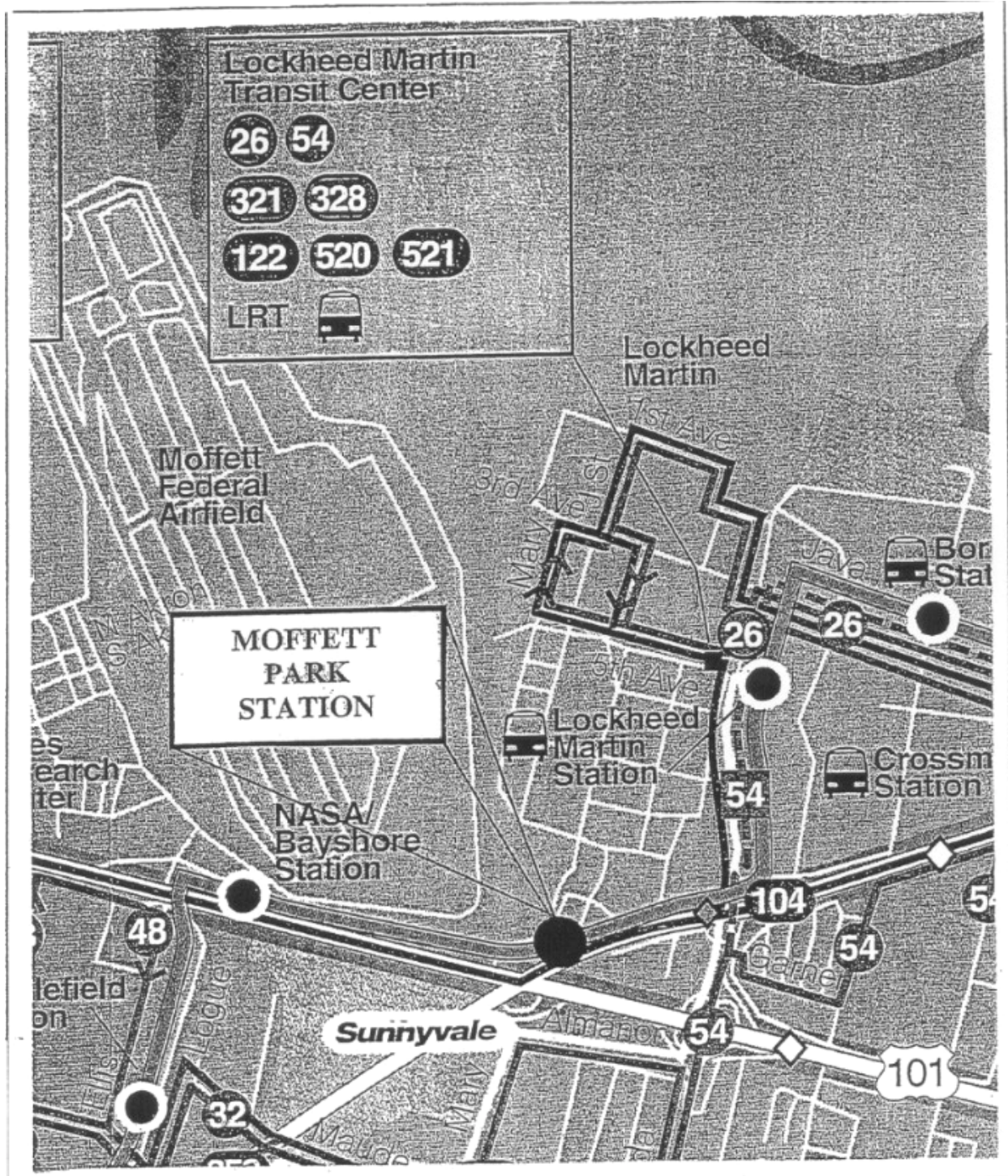
Application 00-08-021 is closed.

This order is effective today.

Dated June 14, 2001, at San Francisco, California.

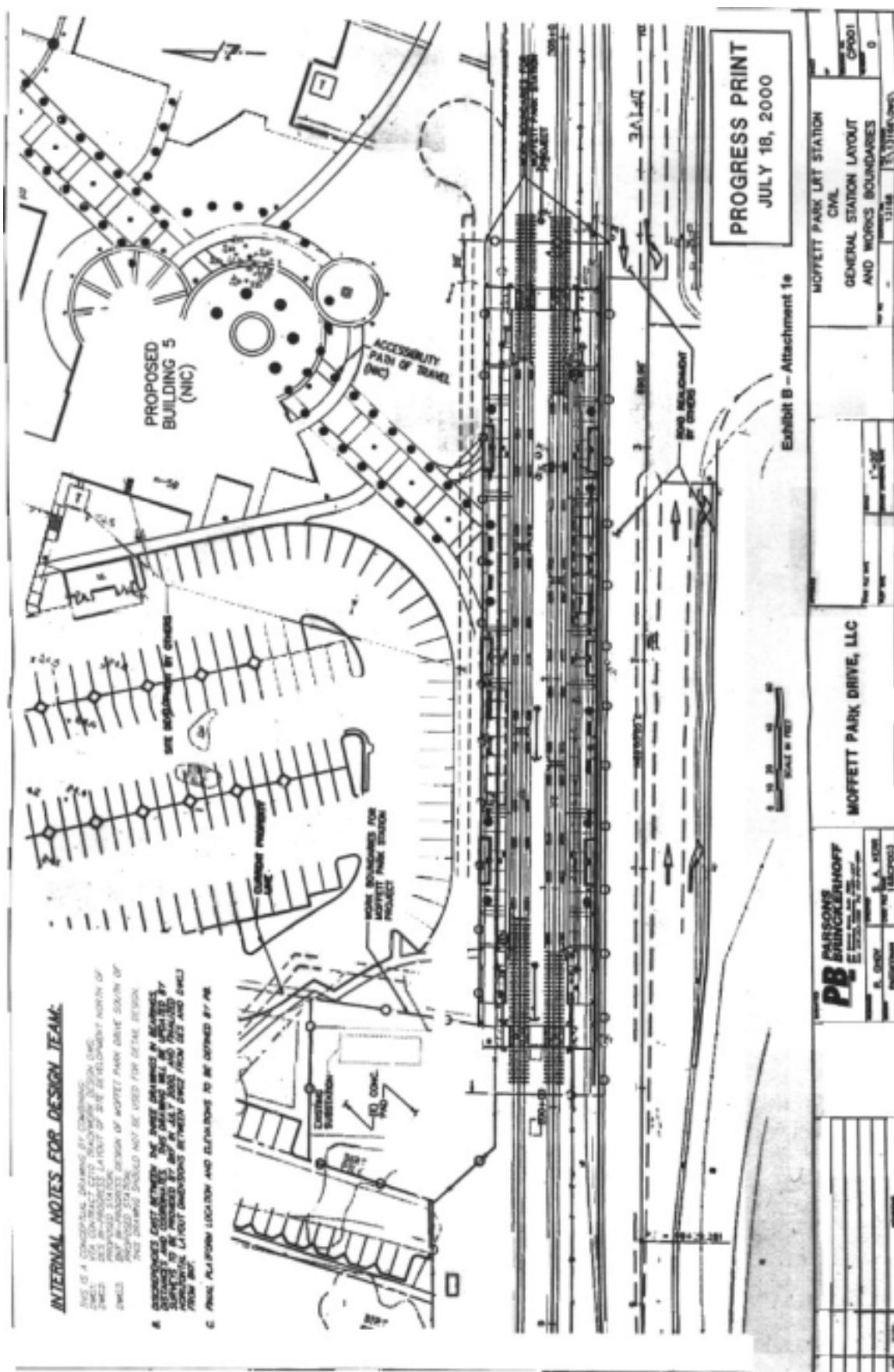
LORETTA M. LYNCH
President
HENRY M. DUQUE
RICHARD A. BILAS
GEOFFREY F. BROWN
Commissioners

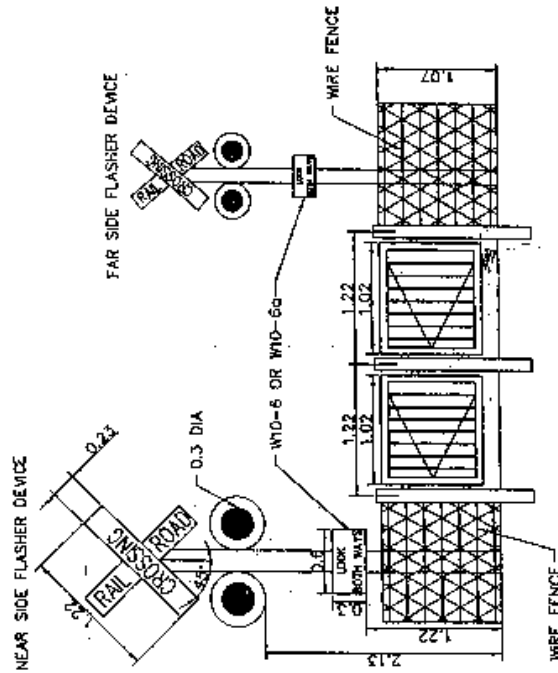
Commissioner Carl W. Wood being
necessarily absent did not participate



Vicinity Map: New Moffett Park Station

Source: Santa Clara Valley Bus & Rail Map





DETAIL
TYPICAL MANUAL PEDESTRIAN SWING GATE

Exhibit B - Attachment 1h

ALL DIMENSIONS GIVEN IN METERS UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED



PROJECT 11/27 A	TYPICAL MANUAL PEDESTRIAN SWING GATE	COUNTY OF SANTA CLARA VALLEY TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY	COUNTY OF SANTA CLARA VALLEY TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY	COUNTY OF SANTA CLARA VALLEY TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY	COUNTY OF SANTA CLARA VALLEY TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY
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